

● ON top of the world. Robert Jackson toasts his new record.

Record for up the pole Robert

ROBERT Jackson went up the pole for 34 days and one hour to get himself in the Guinness Book of Records.

His new world record for pole squatting, carried out in a wine barrel atop a 40-foot pole, raised £1,000 for the Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society.

Robert, an amateur stuntman, took up residence on August 4 in the 110-gallon wine barrel, five feet three inches tall, and two feet wide at the top and bottom, widening to two feet nine inches in the middle, equipped with television and radio, and hauled up all his meals from the ground in a bucket tied to a rope.

His dole

Robert, aged 26, married with two children, only had one worry — how was he going to collect his unemployment benefit? Fortunately, special arrangements were made for him to sign on the dole, 40 feet above the Whispering Wheels roller skating rink, where the record attempt took place.

The pole squatting marathon went off without a hitch apart from a temporary scare when Robert's knees swelled up, but so fit was he when he came down that he immediately did 10 circuits of the roller skating rink.

The Spastics Society's annual meeting and the Executive Council candidates...page 3

Saying it with flowers

POET and writer meet in mutual admiration at the presentation of The Spastics Society's annual literary awards.

Lady Wilson, one of the judges, who has had her own verse published, receives a bouquet from Susanne Jones, aged 11, one of the 10 winners, whose short story "Black Castle" won the first prize in the children's section.

The contest which is open to all handicapped people attracted entries from aspiring authors and poets ranging in age from nine to 74.

The full story of the awards with pictures and some of the winning entries will appear in the next issue of Spastics News.



Princess Anne to visit school

CHILDREN at The Spastics Society's Meldreth Manor School are excitedly looking forward to a visit from HRH Princess Anne on Monday, October 11.

The Princess will arrive at the school at Royston near Cambridge by helicopter, and the main purpose of her visit involves an activity very close to her heart — riding. She will officially open Meldreth's new indoor riding school which has been built by Royal Engineers.

Council relents on bungalow cost

Home, sweet home — at last

AFTER having their happy ending postponed, George and Brenda Isle have finally moved into a home of their own.

When, in April, George and Brenda moved into one of the new Blue Peter bungalows at Cyncoed, Cardiff, their future seemed happily self-contained.

The bungalows, designed specially for handicapped people, and built with money raised by the BBC programme Blue Peter, were opened by the Speaker of the House of Commons, George Thomas, MP.

But, after only a week of living happily ever after, the Isles had to move out again, for although Brenda's local authority in Cambridge had agreed to pay the annual fee of £7,500 to allow her to stay in the married flat at Cyncoed, George had no such assurance from his own local authority in Doncaster.

Prior to moving to Cardiff, George and Brenda

had been residents at the Amersal House hostel in Doncaster.

Doncaster Social Services Department, not unreasonably at a time of severe financial retrenchment, withheld financial sponsorship from George on the grounds that the cost of the Blue Peter accommodation was more than it cost them to maintain him at Amersal House.

George refused to accept the decision and, instead of moving back into the Doncaster hostel, went to live with his mother, while Brenda stayed with another relative.

He appealed to the Chief Executive of Doncaster Council; meanwhile The Spastics Society began informal talks with the Council. Negotiations went on for several months, with Doncaster Council going to considerable lengths to be fair and humane.

After they sent three officials down to inspect the Cyncoed accommodation, there was a difference of opinion, and the Direc-

● Continued on Page 12



'For incontinence?'

'Yes, looks and feels like normal underwear.'

INCO-CARE Insert Pad and Ventilated Pants

The new Inco-Care Insert Pad is highly absorbent yet still discreet enough to fit securely and comfortably into the Inco-Care Ventilated Pants. It's new quilted lining disperses urine to reduce soreness, irritation and odour, with fluffier filling to absorb the average bladder release with capacity to spare. The Insert Pad has a special waterproof backing, with no plastic-to-skin

contact to help prevent leakage without causing discomfort... And teamed with Inco-Care washable, stretch Ventilated Pants, the two together create an incontinence system that looks like and feels like normal underwear, restoring patient dignity and providing more comfort, confidence and convenience.

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Mayoral interest in Help Unit

ENJOYING their civic duties, the Mayor of St Edmundsbury Mrs Barbara Jennings and the Mayoress Mrs Geraldine Jennings are pictured with children from the East Anglian Family Help Unit when they visited The Spastics Society's centre in Bury St Edmunds.

Continuing the tradition of good relations which has been established between the town and the centre the Mayor saw for herself how the unit was run and spent an hour talking with the children.

A NEW hotel development in Surrey, an extension to the Hogs Back Hotel, on the busy A31 road, near Farnham, includes a feature of interest to disabled people. With advice from The Spastics Society, two of the rooms in the new 50 bedroom block have been designed specifically for handicapped people.



SIG ... the letters which spell work for David and Philip

EVEN in these times of high unemployment, jobs for the disabled are still available, as David Carter and Philip Flavell have just found out.

David and Philip are both aged 26, both have cerebral palsy and both have just found work at West Park Hospital in Wolverhampton.

They constitute, in their work in the hospital's laundry, the town's first Sheltered Industrial Group (SIG).

SIGs are small groups of severely disabled people working under special supervision in ordinary working conditions alongside able-bodied people.

First established in 1960, they are now recognised as an important way to provide sheltered employment at a lower cost than sheltered workshops.

The Wolverhampton Area Health Authority initiative in setting up this SIG was one of their contributions to the International Year of Disabled People.

The laundry in which David and Philip work handles each week about 1,500 items for the hospital's 96 geriatric and 10 young disabled patients.

Until now relatives had to carry out the work. It is now hoped to increase the workload by bringing in laundry from other hospitals in the town.

Output in the laundry does not match that of able-bodied workers but any financial loss is met by the SIG's sponsors, Wolverhampton Social Services Department, which in turn is reimbursed by the Manpower Services Commission.

Ray Barry, the MSC's Disablement Resettlement Officer, says: "The health authority with its far sighted attitude has proved what can be done to help disabled workers, who like these two workers are so often keen and eager to make a success of their jobs."

"Employers are naturally very anxious about their finances but I hope that when they learn that a SIG need not add to their costs they will consider following the lead set

by West Park."

The Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society is especially pleased with David and Philip as both have been with the Society since they were children. Philip also attended the local Fernwood training centre.

Both David and Philip are delighted with their new work.

"This scheme has given us both the chance to work for our living again rather than be unemployed," says Philip.

FUND RAISERS GIVE THEM THE COUNTRY LIFE

HANDICAPPED children in the West Country are currently settling down to life on the farm.

Thanks to the fund-raising efforts of numerous organisations and individuals from child carol singers to a sailing police sergeant, from bingo players to the Loyal Order of Moose, the Devon and Exeter Spastics Society has been able to open a new home for handicapped children.

What is special about the home is that it has been converted from a farmhouse and is surrounded by the green pastures of a working dairy farm.

The new home, Hill Barton House, is holding an open day on September 25 to say thank you to all the people and organisations who raised the money to convert the farmhouse.

The local Spastics Society has for a long time been looking to replace the small hostel at Exeter but couldn't afford to build, as they hoped, a larger more appropriate building in the grounds of Vranth House School, Exeter, which it maintains.

Then one day in 1981 Mr Stan Johnson, Head of Vranth House, drove past the farmhouse, saw "For Sale" signs and realised the potential.

The Society bought the house for £130,000 but then had to find another £80,000 to convert it for the special needs of the handicapped children.

In meeting the cost of these conversions, local organisations responded in splendid fashion "adopting" rooms and raising the money to furnish them.

Sgt Peter Phillips, of Devon and Cornwall police, sailed his trimaran in the AZAB race in 1979 to raise money; a group known as the Bingo Supporters raised a staggering £10,000 just from weekly bingo sessions.

An old age pensioner signed over his Christmas bonus to the fund, while some children who had been carol singing at Christmas contributed 70p.

The Silver Top Club which began by collecting silver bottle tops made a special collection.

In future, the Society hopes to convert the remainder of the substantial outbuildings attached to the old farmhouse into sheltered accommodation.

Meanwhile £10,000 is still required to renovate and repaint the outside of the building. The splendid fund raisers in the West are already hard at work devising new ways of how to keep them down on the farm.

Motoring

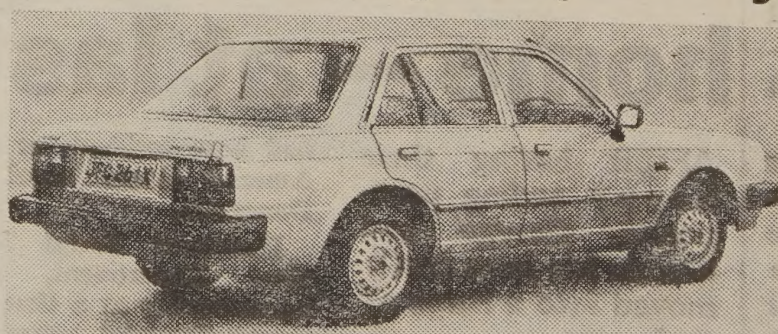
by John Byworth

Joint effort — high quality result

WHEN Honda in Japan and British Leyland joined forces to produce a small family car I expected a cheap stop gap to replace the ageing Allegro or Maxi. I was therefore pleasantly surprised to find the car that bears the Triumph badge is of an extremely high quality, and those little touches of luxury common to previous small cars in this series.

The Acclaim looks like any other Japanese car and unfortunately very similar to other Honda models. The body and interior is manufactured in Britain at the Leyland Works, where it joins a Honda assembled 4-cylinder front wheel drive engine unit. The unique automatic gearbox has a low setting for pulling away under load, a normal drive position and an over-drive to give maximum economy when cruising on the open road. On the dashboard an illuminated segment on the rev-counter shows when over-drive is selected, and on a test drive, the result is an extremely quiet and smooth ride at 70 mph, even though there is only a 1300 engine under the bonnet.

The advertising for this



car states: "It is totally equipped for today's motoring"—a statement like that is worth investigation and I must admit that whilst the outside is comparatively plain, the interior is certainly spectacular, especially for a car in this price range. The radio, clock, all the dials and warning lights any driver would want are standard, along with remote controlled door mirrors on both doors, reclining seats and a good quality carpet. The seats are fabric covered with a slight contour which strikes the balance between holding you in place and making it easy to get in and out.

All the controls are within easy reach from the driving position with lights and wipers on twin stalks from the steering column.

It was also nice to see the horn back on the steering wheel, which in my opinion is the best place for it when any crisis occurs. This car

is full of little thoughtful gadgets which make you wonder why others, more expensive, are so basic. A box for parking meter coins, a fuse panel and ventilators which blow hot and cold air, are the most obvious.

The boot and filler cap can be opened from the inside which saves the key ceremony when filling with petrol, and a key hole is provided when you are outside the car, (another thoughtful touch).

The doors are comparatively small at 30 inch wide, this is a common problem with a lot of these small, 4-door cars, but once inside there is plenty of elbow space for four average sized adults. The boot is large for this size of car but due to an odd shaped boot lid the access is only 23 inch wide, it is however 34 inch deep and only 24 inch off the ground, making it ideal for a folded light weight wheelchair.

Under the bonnet, which unfortunately opens the wrong way for the wheelchair mechanic, there is a 1300 cc over-head cam shaft engine fitted with twin car-

burettors and electronic ignition. Being a transverse assembly it is a little crowded, but the layout has been designed for easy servicing with the parts requiring regular attention near the top.

TECHNICAL SUMMARY: 4 cylinder, transverse OHC all Alloy 1300 cc engine giving 70 BHP on 91 octane 2 star petrol.

Fitted with 3 speed automatic transmission. Constant driving 56 mph equals 48 mph; Constant driving 75 mph equals 30.5 mph; Urban cycle equals 32 mph.

Service intervals of 7500 miles.

Standard hand controls easily fitted, £133.00.

The Acclaim HL Automatic costs £5,220 Del Ex Stock, which would be subject to a discount of 15 per cent on the basic cost for Motability which could be £710.00. To give a final price of £4,510 for the disabled driver, which is extremely good value for this quality of car as this model is very popular at the moment, the resale value should be good, making it a good investment.

My local conversion company fitting hand controls says this model is becoming very popular especially with older drivers on their second or third car.

My trial car came from: Kenning (London) Limited, 293/303 Fore Street, Edmon-ton, London, N9 803-1488. Their Mr John Shaw is the salesman experienced in selling cars to the disabled with or without Motability.

Rifton

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30th anniversary AGM of The Spastics Society

HRH the Duchess of Kent, Patron of The Spastics Society, will attend the Society's annual general meeting in London on Saturday, October 16, where she will find hundreds of supporters, proud of the achievements of the past 30 years and facing the future with confidence.

There is a full programme for the day, which is the one occasion of the year in which the people who work for the cause of the handicapped throughout the country can meet together, and hear detailed reports on the work of the Society, and its plans for the future.

One of the main tasks of the delegates with voting powers will be to elect new members of the Society's Executive Council. Members of the 15-strong Council are elected for a three-year term, so five retire each year by rotation. This year, however, there are six vacancies as Mr Ian Dawson-Shepherd has resigned from the Council because he has taken up an appointment with the Society. In addition, long-serving members Mr Alex Moira, and Mr William Burn, are not seeking re-election. (There is a tribute to Mr Moira, Mr Burn, and Mr Dawson-Shepherd on page 10). Three retiring members, Miss Valerie Lang, Mr Derek Ashcroft, and Mr Iorwerth Thomas, are standing again for seats on the Council.

The meeting, under the Chairmanship of Mrs Joyce Smith, will be addressed by Dr Geoffrey Harris, administrator of St Laurence's Hospital, Caterham, Surrey. Another guest speaker was to have been the remarkable Mr Bernard Brett, a man who in spite of severe cerebral palsy, was a leading voluntary worker and champion for the disabled. Sadly, Mr Brett died suddenly earlier this month and the meeting will instead pay tribute to a compelling personality who epitomised all the Society stands for—a brave, independent spirit unbowed by handicap.

In detail — the Society's Aims

THE Spastics Society is one of Britain's best-known charities, and broadly speaking, there can be few people who do not know of its vital work for the handicapped. But do you know exactly what the Society stands for? The Executive Council has compiled a statement setting out the Society's Aims in detail, and Spastics News suggests you keep it for future reference.

PRIMARY AIMS

Prevention: To minimise the incidence of cerebral palsy before, at or near birth.

Treatment: To minimise the handicap suffered.

Independence: To achieve maximum possible independence and personal fulfilment.

SECONDARY AIMS

Prevention

To promote effective research into the cause, prevention and extent of cerebral palsy.

To encourage the provision of the best possible antenatal care, and delivery service.

To promote adequate health education.

To encourage the provision and extension of adequate special services for babies at risk in the perinatal period.

Treatment

To encourage the earliest possible diagnosis of cerebral palsy.

To promote effective research into treatment.

To encourage the development of the best possible methods and services for treatment.

Independence

To promote and develop services for the best possible education and training of spastic men, women and children according to their needs and potential capabilities.

To promote and develop services for maximum employment and occupation according to personal wishes and potential contribution to the community.

To provide the best possible counselling service for spastic people and their families.

To foster understanding and acceptance of the Society's aims for spastic people in their homes and by the community.

To provide and develop living accommodation that gives care as necessary and maximum independence for spastic people having regard to their wishes, needs and abilities.

To pioneer projects which can act as guidelines to local and central Government for promotion, independence of living and personal fulfilment.

To encourage and support effective research into and development of aids to independence of living.

EIGHT SEEK ELECTION TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

* Derek Ashcroft has been Vice-Chairman of The Spastics Society and a member of the Management Board since October 1981, and a member of the Executive Council since 1974. Aged 58, he was chairman of the Services Committee, is the parent of a spastic son and has practical knowledge of, and involvement in, the further education and job placement of the 16 plus age group.

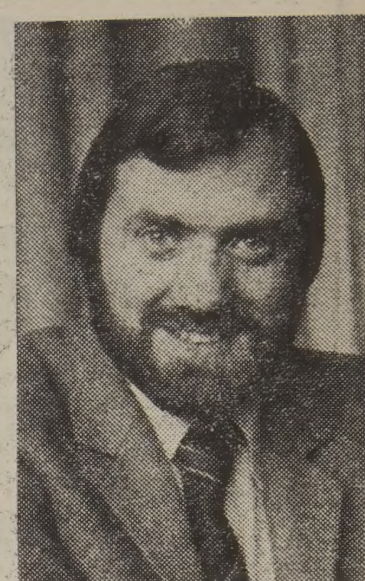
Mr Ashcroft, who lives in Brighton, is vice-chairman of the Society's South East Regional Committee, on the management committee of Garwood Hotel, Bognor Regis and has been



a member of Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Society for 23 years.

John Byworth, aged 32, a project engineer from Enfield, Middlesex, has been a member of the Society's Services Committee, and Convenor of the Services sub group on work.

He also served on the Stephens' Working Party on relations between the central Society, affiliated groups and the regional organisation. A former member of Enfield Community Health Council, he is on the management committee of Hornsey Centre for Handicapped Children. Mr Byworth is chairman of the London Regional Committee, a committee member of North London Spastics Association, a member of the Regions



Work Centres advisory team, and the Motoring Correspondent of Spastics News.



Douglas Shapland was co-opted to the Executive Council in February last year, to fill a casual vacancy and became vice-chairman of the Services

Committee and Convenor of the Social Work Advisory Group. Since 1970 Mr Shapland, aged 53 has been Director of Social Services for the London borough of Haringey; previously he had been chief welfare officer in the borough from 1964-70, and had spent eight years as area welfare officer, for Middlesex County Council.

Mr Shapland, who lives in North London has had a decade of practical experience in the provision of residential care for the elderly and handicapped, with Devon and Middlesex county councils.

For the past seven years he has been Hon Secretary to Age Concern, Greater London.

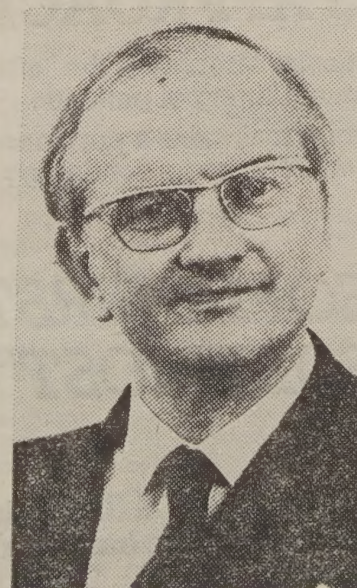
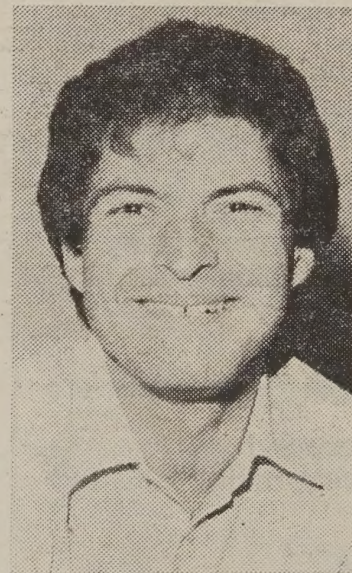


* Valerie Lang has been on the Executive Council since 1979, served on the Services Committee from 1976-1982, was vice-chairman of the Services sub-committee from 1978-1980; has served on Samaritan Trustees, the former Consultative Group, the new Consumers' Groups and ad-

visory groups on alternatives to work and daily living. Miss Lang, aged 43, lives in London, works as a Higher Executive Officer for the Civil Aviation Authority, is a member of the Association of Disabled Professionals, of British Rail's Advisory committee on transport for the disabled and of two disabled drivers' groups.

Educated at St Margaret's School, Croydon, she is a former secretary to the Association of '62 Clubs, has spoken at regional conferences on the problems of being disabled, disability and equality; at a medical seminar on the problems of the disabled when they have normal medical complaints; and at an international conference on independence and the role of parents. She has links with the North London Spastics Association

Ronald Gerver, aged 35, lives in London, works as a translator and is a member of the Society's Educational Advisory Committee, Convenor of the Consumers' Group and Chairman of the Employment Working Party (Aston University Project). He is also a member of the North London Spastics Association.

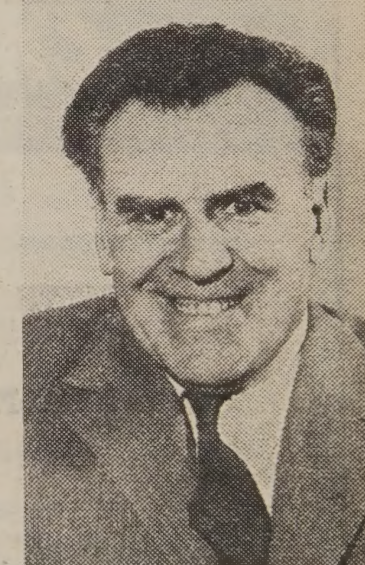


Adrian Wright, a Bristol solicitor was a member of the Executive Council from 1972-1978, served on the Society's Finance Committee from 1972-1975 and on

the Resources Committee from 1975-1980. He is a member of the executive committee of the Bristol and District Spastics Association and has been honorary secretary since 1979.

Mr Wright, aged 56, was chairman of the Association of '62 Clubs from 1967-1975, and has been vice-president for the past seven years. He is chairman of the local branch of the William Temple Association. He has had wide experience working for Bristol charities, and has been secretary of Abbeyfield Bristol Society, since its formation in 1966, and was a founder of Clifton and Hotwells Improvement Society and a committee member until 1971.

* Iorwerth Madog Thomas, Vice-Chairman of the Society has been on the Executive Council since 1970 and is a former Treasurer of the Society. A civil engineer, living in Warrington, Lancashire, Mr Thomas, aged 60, is a former chairman of both the North West Regional Committee and the Urmston and District group, and is still a member of the latter group.



Clement Wood, chairman of the Midlands Regional Committee of

The Spastics Society, and a member and former chairman of the East Staffordshire Group, is a retired headmaster, aged 61, and lives at Rolleston on Dove, Burton-on-Trent. He served on the Stephens' Working Party on relations between affiliated groups, the regional organisation and the central Society, is a past member of Staffordshire County Council, was chairman of the Area Social Services Advisory Committee and vice-chairman of the Higher and Further Education Committee.

*Denotes retiring member of the Executive Council.

Is a Myth coming between You & your Favourite Disabled Child?

The Ortho-Kinetics Travel Chair has for many years been regarded as the ultimate in proper positioning and support for the handicapped child. This has been confirmed by the support we have been given by most therapists, and currently in the U.K. over 3,000 children and their parents are benefiting from a new found degree of freedom that the Travel Chair has given to them.

As with any unique and revolutionary product the Travel Chair has, along with the praise, attracted inevitable criticism, mainly from the misinformed.

We now feel that the time has come to put the record straight and to explode a few myths.

MYTH: The Travel Chair is unstable
REALITY: It conforms to the British Standard specification for stability of pushchairs BS No. BS 4792 1972.

MYTH: Under the new seat belt law the use of the Travel Chair in the front seat of a motor car is illegal.

REALITY: It conforms to the requirements of Section 28 of the New Transport Act 1981 Subsection 33B and is legal.

MYTH: The unique telescopic angle-adjusting mechanism is prone to failure

REALITY: A well known charitable organisation circulated a letter criticising one part of the Travel Chair, i.e. the telescopic tube assembly. A tiny proportion of the telescopic tube assemblies failed. Ortho-Kinetics replaced every telescopic tube on all the chairs in use in the U.K. - free of charge, of course.

MYTH: Ortho-Kinetics did not respond adequately to the discovery of the possibly defective part.

REALITY: See above

MYTH: Children could be injured using the Travel Chair
REALITY: Several children's lives have been saved as a direct result of being in a Travel Chair when the cars in which they were travelling were involved in serious road accidents. To the best of our knowledge *NO* child has sustained notable injury as a result of using the Travel Chair.

MYTH: The DHSS does not supply the Travel Chair on prescription as they consider it to be unsuitable
REALITY: The decision of the DHSS not to supply the chair was based *solely* on economic grounds.

MYTH: The Travel Chair is expensive
REALITY: The Travel Chair is the supreme posture chair for children. Quality has always cost more than mediocrity, but on a straight comparison of price the Travel Chair represents excellent value for money. It is noted that others are copying Ortho-Kinetics attachments:- as far as our patent allows!

Heard any other good myths lately?
We would love to hear them.

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Established in 1963 the Ortho-Kinetics group has consistently been at the forefront of technical innovation relating to the specialist adaptive equipment market, with sales worldwide.

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Favour opens a new chapter in 'aids' for the disabled

A nine-month-old stray mongrel called Favour is about to open a brand new chapter in the age-old relationship between man and his best friend in Britain.

And remembering the chimpanzee in America who was trained to act as an efficient helper to a spastic man, it could be that cerebral palsied people who are deaf may soon be taking part in a revolutionary scheme — and finding a pet.

Favour, an apricot coloured crossbreed of vaguely Labrador cast, is currently being trained to become the ears of a lonely old deaf lady by the newly established Hearing Dogs For The Deaf organisation.

The scheme, run under the auspices of the Royal National Institute For The Deaf, will train dogs to act as ears for deaf people by responding to everyday sounds, such as a knock on the door, a whistling kettle or the alarm clock.

A dog can even be trained to fetch a deaf mother when a baby cries.

Favour was plucked from obscurity for his starring role in this new experiment in social welfare after being found wandering lost and forlorn in Didcot.

From there he came, via the local police station, to the National Canine Defence League, where he caught the eye of P. J. Reilly, the top American dog trainer who came to Britain to choose the first



● DEAF actress Elizabeth Quinn, star of the West End play "Children of a Lesser God," with Favour, the mongrel stray who became the first dog in Britain to be trained as "hearing ears" for a deaf person.

dogs for the scheme and start their training.

In choosing a dog, neither sex nor breed matters, but the animal must show quick response to certain sounds, have high intelligence, friendly disposition and a willingness to please.

Even more important the dogs chosen are tailor made for their prospective owners; the new owner is selected first of all and then the dog selected to fit in to an environment and life-style.

The man responsible for training the Hearing Dogs

at the training centre in Chinnor, Oxfordshire, is Tony Blunt, a 48-year-old former dog handler with Thames Valley police.

He has received an induction into the special problems of training dogs for the deaf from P. J. Reilly. The scheme is already well established in America where during the past six years over 200 trained dogs have been successfully placed to act as the ears for deaf people.

Selected dogs, like Favour, will be trained in a home environment for about four months to res-

pond to several basic sounds such as a door bell ringing, by going to the deaf owner, making their presence known and then leading the owner to the source of the sound.

Hearing dogs are trained to both voice and hand signal, the hand signals being important as many profoundly deaf people enunciate words in a different way from the trainer.

Potential owners of hearing dogs are also specially selected by a Placement Counsellor, Gillian Lacey, aged 23, who sees her role as an opportunity to bring independence and companionship to those who are isolated by their deafness.

Having ensured that the potential owner is able and willing to look after a dog properly, Gillian will then spend a week working with the dog and its new owner in the home, teaching them both how to fully utilise the dog's abilities and consolidate the training.

Apart from the practical advantages of having a dog which hears for you, a deaf person will receive a new feeling of independence, companionship and security.

The Hearing Dogs For The Deaf scheme is paid for totally by donations and sponsorship and it costs £2,500 to train each dog.

A chat with Mr Speaker



GWYN John, pictured with the Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr George Thomas, MP, had a capital day out recently. His trip to London took him on a guided tour of the higher peaks of the British Constitution.

First, Gwyn, who was a founder member of the Swansea and District Spastics Association, went to the House of Commons to meet the Speaker and go on a tour of the historic buildings. Then, in the evening he went to Buckingham Palace to attend a garden party and meet the Prince of Wales. Gwyn was accompanied by his wife Lena and their spastic daughter.

Gwyn, who is due to

retire from his job as Maintenance Supervisor with BP at Llandarcy next year has devoted most of his spare time during the past 30 years to the cause of spastic people.

New homes

THE Shaftesbury Society Housing Association is now considering applications for four new housing schemes that are due for completion in the first half of 1983 at Basildon, Essex; March, Cambridgeshire; Bourne-moth, Dorset; and Alton, Hants. The flats are self-contained, have resident wardens and include bed-sitters and one or two bedroomed flats for disabled people which can be adopted to meet individual needs. Priority will be given to those who live in the areas

Your small ads

FOR sale, Meyra Rehab electric wheelchair, model 422, with reinforced motor, right hand drive, suitable for small adult. Chair is four years old and little used. Batteries need renewing, otherwise in perfect condition. Complete with battery charger, etc, £400. Write to: Mrs A. M. Bardelang, 133 Foxcroft Drive, Baskrick, Brighouse, W Yorks HD6 3UX.

TED PILCHER, aged 49, who lives at Highland Court Hospital, Bridge, near Canterbury, Kent would like a pen friend of either sex and any age. He now attends the local adult training centre, works making up hospital packs, likes football and music. All his life has been spent in various hospitals and he has no family.

LESLIE FULLER would like a pen friend of either sex and any age. He is 39, lives at Highland Court Hospital, Bridge, near Canterbury, Kent, attends a social education centre, is on the committee of the local PHAB club, enjoys riding and rug making. Leslie who has spent all his life in hospital has no family of his own, has a tricycle and an electric wheelchair and is learning to type.

DORSET Spastics Society has a 6-berth caravan at Holton Heath, near Wareham and Poole, which is available from September 25 until the end of October at a reduced rate. Inquiries to Mrs W. Stephenson, 2 Ashling Close, Bourne-mouth. Tel: 0202 514645.

PEN friends from anywhere in the country are needed for Susan Parrish, of 222 Kings Mead, Pontefract, West Yorkshire. Susan likes listening to records, writing letters, dancing and watching TV. Her favourite pop stars are Cliff Richard and Leo Sayer.

MRS Pattenden is looking for a second-hand three-wheeler bicycle for her spastic son, who is 16 years old and needs a full-sized bike. Anyone who can help should ring Medway 669211.

SHARON and Sherry Nevins are 27-year-old identical twins living in the United States and looking for pen pals. Both have cerebral palsy. Sherry is attending Illinois State University but both can be contacted at Oak Forest Hospital, 159th Ciccor, Oak Forest, Illinois 60452.

MEYRA Pehab power chair, (electric), model 422, £850 ono. Excellent Condition, cost £1,400. Free Delivery reasonable distance Stockport, Cheshire. Phone: (Mike) Disley 3477.

Hostel weekends

PEN-Y-PASS youth hostel in North Wales is running a series of weekends for handicapped people. Nearly 200 disabled people have already taken part in activities including rock climbing, pony trekking, mountain walking and canoeing. Participants have included those confined to wheelchairs.

Qualified instructors, most of them volunteers, provide tuition and guidance.

The idea of the weekends first came from Friends Together, a Merseyside Group, keen to encourage handicapped people to go hostelling.

The first weekend, originally intended for 20, attracted 60.

The weekends have been so successful that they will continue for 1982 and into 1983. For those not so keen to participate in the rougher outdoor activities, the programme will include painting and photography.

For further information contact: Helen Cameron, YHA, Trevelyan House, 8 St Stephen's Hill, St Albans, Herts. AL1 2DY. Tel St Albans 55215.

The YHA has some 20 hostels which are accessible to the disabled. Broad Haven in South Wales was purpose-built with facilities for disabled people. Mentally handicapped people are welcome at most YHA hostels.

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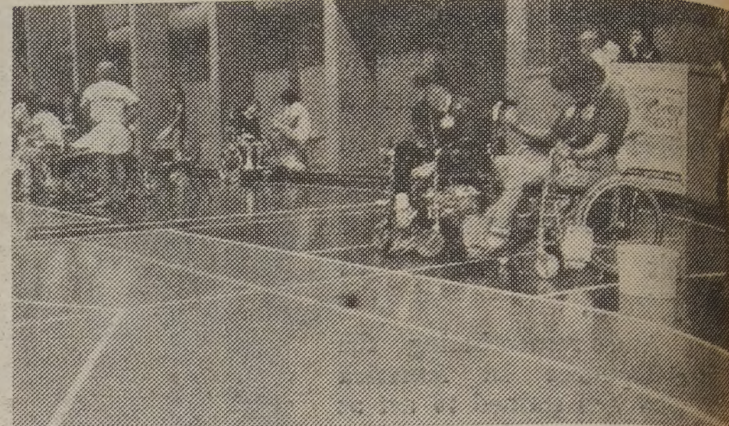
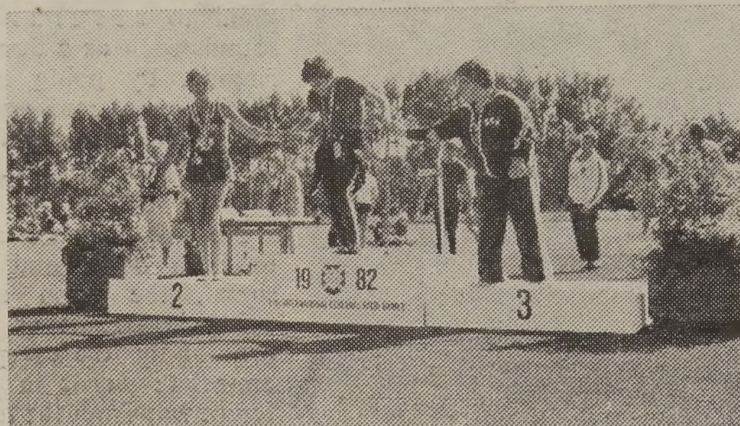
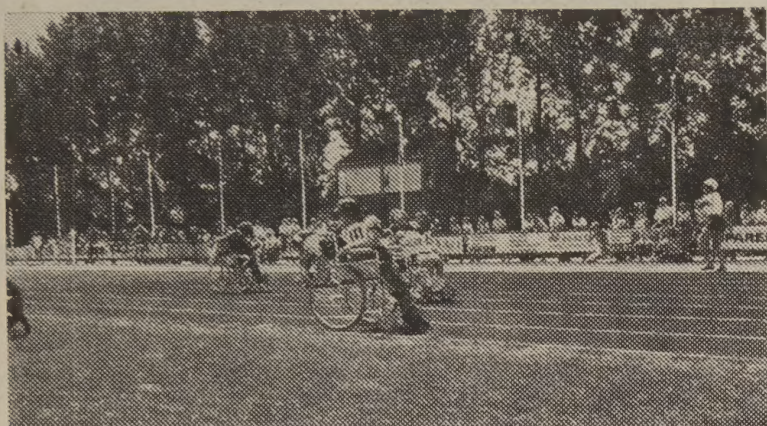
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Britain's golden success at International



• Snapshots from the Games in Denmark capture the flavour of the unique event.



Six-medal Anne was the star of the Games

YOU will not have seen it on television, nor read about it in the newspapers, but one of the best sporting achievements of the year came from a working Mum from Bristol.

In the International Cerebral Palsy Games in Denmark, Anne Trotman,



Anne Trotman

aged 30, won six medals, more than any other individual performer.

She won golds in the javelin, discus and club throwing; silvers in the 25 metres and 50 metres swimming, and a bronze in wheelchair football.

Her medal haul would have been even greater but for the facts that this year for the first time athletes were restricted to three events in the track and field events; while the archery event in which Anne expected to do well was cancelled due to lack of entrants.

Anne's achievement is all the more impressive when you consider that although confined to a wheelchair she looks after her husband and eight-year-old daughter, Tammy,

and works full time at the Disability Advice Centre in Bristol.

"I train quite a lot all the time but made a special effort for these games for several months before they took place," said Anne.

In her Noddy car, as invalid carriages are known to their drivers, she goes swimming three times a week, practices her archery once a week, goes once a week to the Avon Swifts sports club where she is a member, and also trains on Sundays. At the height of her pre-Games build up she was training every day.

Every lunchtime, every weekend and sometimes even before going to work, Anne was out training with the full support of her family.

"My husband sometimes has to cook his own tea but he is a nurse and works shifts so it works out quite well. Anyway, he hates water and can't stand swimming."

Daughter Tammy fortunately likes swimming and goes along with Mum when she is training.

"I think next time it will be very difficult to repeat my success. People will have got even better and several countries are taking it very, very seriously indeed."

The medals Anne won will join all the others from previous years—in a drawer.

After all, what should I do with them? A medal is merely an indication of what I did on a certain day. There are other people who performed as well as me but because they were in a different category, didn't win a medal."

ATHLETES from Britain produced an Olympian performance in the fifth International Cerebral Palsy Games in Denmark.

The English team, which was 40 strong, returned with 68 medals, made up of 12 gold, 18 silver and 38 bronze.

The 17 members of the Scottish team brought back four silver and four bronze medals.

There were 450 competitors from 25 nations competing in the Games, held at Greve, near Copenhagen, and only the team from the USA, which had 18 more competitors than the English, won more medals.

Anne Trotman, aged 30, from Bristol was the outstanding individual performer winning golds in the javelin, discus and club throw, silvers in the 25 metres and 50 metres swimming, and a bronze in the wheelchair football.

The youngest competitor, Jane Peters, aged 15, also from Bristol, won three golds and a silver.

The Scots also made their own distinctive impact on the Games. During the opening ceremony when every other team marched into the stadium to canned music, the Scots had a piper in full Highland regalia to lead them in, a man obtained from a local pipe band.

In addition they beat England, the "Auld

enemy", in the football competition, before being beaten for the bronze medal by Belgium, a feat which in itself is worth a Flodden Field full of gold medals.

Altogether there were 400 different events split up into eight categories based on different degrees of disability.

The Games, organised by the Danish Spastics Society were run along the same lines as the Olympics, and the Danish Athletics and Swimming associations provided top class timekeepers and officials. There was even a wind tunnel to check the wind speed, as, for the first time, official world records were recognised during the Games.



Michael Kender takes a relaxed attitude to the Games!

How Jane 'surprised' her school

JANE PETERS, aged 15, the youngest competitor in the Games, isn't allowed to take part in sport at school, but she came away from Denmark with three gold medals and a silver.

Jane, who lives in Bristol, won golds in javelin, shot and clubthrowing, and a silver for table tennis, and she would have increased her haul if things hadn't gone wrong in her

strongest event, the swimming.

"My main event is swimming," says Jane, "but the water in the pool was so cold my legs went numb and I couldn't feel them at all. I was also a bit nervous as the trip to Copenhagen was the first time I had been abroad."

Yet, in spite of her athletic prowess, Jane hasn't taken part in sport at her school, the Sir Bernard Lovell School, in Bristol, for three years.

Jane, whose cerebral palsy is relatively mild, can

walk and has always attended normal schools, explained why she was "banned" from games.

"I used to do games but once when I was doing a sponsored circuit in the gym, which involved jumping up and down on a bench, I bruised my legs and the doctor wouldn't let me take games anymore."

The school was "very surprised but also very pleased" to hear of Jane's success in Denmark but her achievements didn't come easy.

The social side of the gathering was given great emphasis. Badges and pennants were taken from Britain to give to competitors from the other countries, which included all the nations of Western Europe, with the exception of Spain, the USA, Canada, Yugoslavia, Korea, Mexico and a one-man team from Australia.

In the evenings after a full day of competition, which began very early, there were parties, a jazz festival and folk dancing to lubricate the formation

of individual and international friendships.

There was general agreement among both athletes and organisers that these Games were the best yet.

The outstanding performances in addition to Anne Trotman and Jane Peters were:

• Martin Mansell, from Nottingham who won swimming golds in the individual freestyle and the relay.

• Anna Blake, from Melksham, Wilts — a swimming gold.

• Maria Brooks, from Milton Keynes, a gold in wheelchair slalom.

• The 4 x 50 metres relay team, consisting of Robin Surgeon, Beverley Leaper, Chris Hampshire and Martin Mansell, won gold.

• The Boccia Team (playing a game similar to French boules) of Alan Kerwin, of the Glyncod Flats, Cardiff, Carol Johnson, from Berwick and Paula Monzani from Amersham, Bucks, won the gold.

• Carol Danalyzyn, from Nottingham, won a gold in archery.

• Gerald McConnell, from Glasgow, won silvers in the discus and swimming, and a bronze in the long jump.

• Linda Fyfe, from the West of Scotland, won a silver in the javelin.

• Gordon Robertson, from Glasgow, won a silver in the 400 metres.

• Catherine Phelan, from Edinburgh, won bronzes in club throw and discus.

• George Riddell, from Glasgow, won a bronze in the shot.

onal Games



● THE Scots football team with their flag, and (top picture), the proud Scottish contingent on parade with their piper.

How they helped save babies in Birmingham

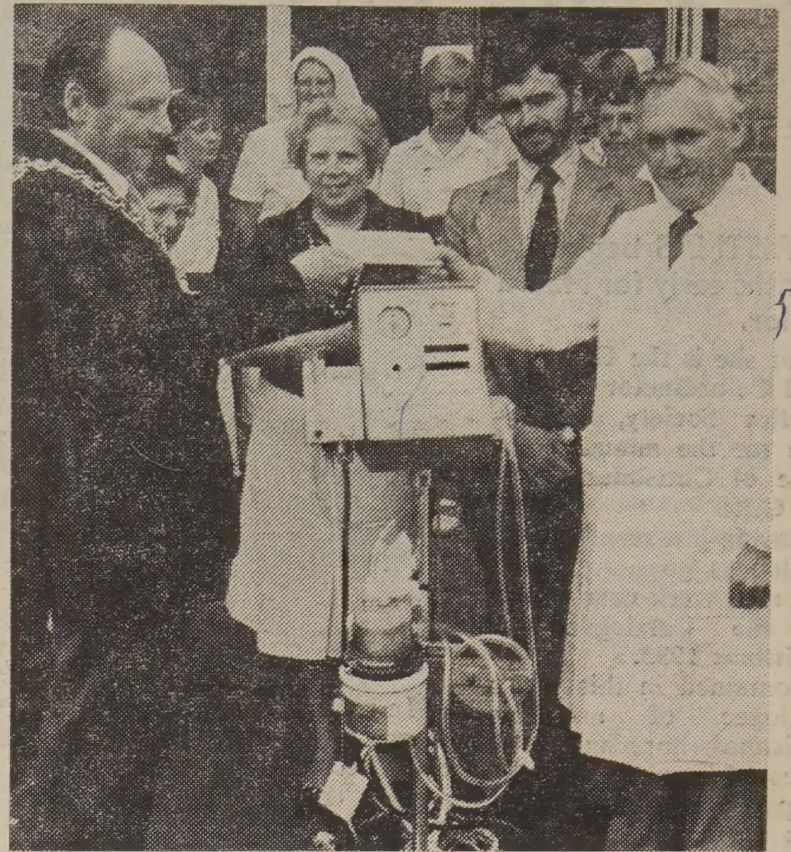
THE Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Peter Hollingworth hands over a cheque for £4,000 to complete the £32,000 appeal to mark the 50th anniversary of the city's Sorrento Hospital. The cheque from The Spastics Society, via the Heinz charity label appeal, is received by Brian Walton, senior consultant paediatrician, will buy equipment for the hospital's special baby care unit. Also in the picture are Mrs Elizabeth Evans, Appeals Officers, Midlands Region, and Mr Gordon Davies of the Society.

parachute jump, a slim-in, a knit-in, cycling, marathon running and swimming. Events as varied as a Lord Mayor's reception, a skittle evening, an Asian meal and a disco raised money, while funds were further swelled by sales of peg bags, Easter eggs, bay leaves, and bottles.

The Sorrento Hospital, the beneficiary of all this effort, is would famous for its special care baby unit. It was the first hospital in Britain and the third in the world to have a special care baby unit.

The first admissions to the hospital in 1931 were twins brought in on the back of their father's motor bike. Now 450 babies a year pass through special baby unit, and receive the best treatment to be obtained anywhere in the world.

Picture by Birmingham Post and Mail



Paid out

The joint efforts of the hospital and the Spastics Society produced a whole host fund raising ideas, for the Sorrento Hospital's Golden Jubilee Year.

Sponsors paid out for a

THE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Tim Yeo writes to you.



AS I grow older there seem to be fewer and fewer experiences for which Shakespeare does not have some appropriate comment.

Even golf, a game not invented in Shakespeare's lifetime, is well catered for. After playing a particularly bad shot (a not infrequent occurrence for players of my calibre), the words of the Duke of Venice in the first act of Othello should help to compose one's thoughts in preparation for the next one:

"To mourn a mischief that is past and gone is the next way to draw new mischief on."

These are sentiments which have a far wider application than golf and should be borne in mind by anyone who is considering trying to correct a false impression given by a newspaper report.

Despite this, I wish to comment on the general state of voluntary giving to charities and on the position of The Spastics Society as indicated in the recently published Charities Aid Foundation Annual Book of Statistics. Although the CAF Book points out that the real value of voluntary donations last year, in contrast to the increase in the previous year, it fails to distinguish between individual donations and other sources of voluntary income.

Included within the overall total of voluntary income are items such as dividends, property rents, and corporate donations,

and all these have suffered from the economic recession, and the decline in company profits. There is no question that in real terms income from these sources has fallen. This does not, however, imply that the charitable impulse is on the wane.

Similarly, the decline in the real value of covenants is not indicative of a new trend in the attitude of covenanters since the income from covenants depends on decisions made by individuals over a period of years. It is quite possible, therefore, that individual donations are keeping pace with inflation, and if this is the case it represents remarkable generosity on the part of the public.

Turning to the Society's own position, the good news is, that contrary to impressions which may have been given elsewhere, our ranking relative to other charities in terms of voluntary income was maintained at the same

level as the previous year. THE CA Preview shows that we held our own in this way in marked contrast to the three previous years, each of which was worse than its predecessor.

From this it appears that we are turning the corner. It is important to give credit where it is due, and it would be both discouraging to our hard working fundraising team all over the country, and inaccurate to suggest that their efforts have not yielded results.

There are always lessons to be learned, however. First of all, there is little in the overall figures to support the Government claim that the 1980 Finance Act concessions on covenants have helped growth in charitable income from this source.

Secondly, legacies are a key element in charity income and evidence suggests that today's legacy income reflects the public perception of a charity about four years ago. This may help to explain why the Society's legacy income has risen more slowly than some other charities. It is to be hoped now that the Society's increasingly confident and effective public profile will yield benefits in the second half of the 1980s.

Thirdly, fund raising is becoming more competitive and it is important that if a major charity like The Spastics Society is to increase its share of the total voluntary income available it must be able to demonstrate clearly that it uses the money which is given to it in an effective and responsible way.

Nothing new in school integration

I HAVE been very interested to read in Spastics News about handicapped people going to ordinary schools as this is what I did, even though I was spastic with a mile and a half to travel to school. I did it in a car with pedals, and then a three-wheel bicycle, and with the help of my sister and brother. I am now 66, so it is not really a new idea.

I found the children treated me as one of themselves, just someone they

In the last issue I did so admire the couple you wrote about who were looking after their three spastic adults at home. They must have gone through a lot but from the pictures they looked a very happy family. I am always interested to read about the way parents have resolved the problem of whether "to send away or keep at home," and over the months you have given several examples of the way parents have arrived at their decisions. These articles are very useful, please let us have more.

I could write a lot more about the pieces which have caught my attention, but let me just say a word about the articles on cars, written by John Byworth. Please thank him for his sensible advice.
Mrs A.J.,
Dyfed,
Wales.

Why no names?

WE all agree with Spastics News that disabled people should be treated as "normal" people and not subject to any lack of respect on account of their disability.

On page 12 of the July issue of Spastics News there are two photographs, both recording the opening of the Daresbury Hall extension. I found it surprising to read that only the well-known (and able-bodied) had names, the disabled people in the being described as the "residents".

Would it have been too much trouble to have found out their names?
PATRICIA STILEMAN,
Careers Section,
The Spastics Society,
London.

● It was impossible on that occasion as the pictures were taken just as we went to Press, and the caption supplied was incomplete. You know very well that it is not our usual practice — Editor.

LETTERS

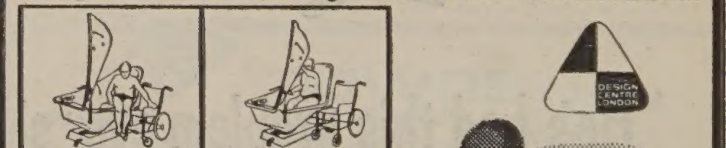
could help if necessary— which they seemed to enjoy. Apart from going in and out of hospital, I was brought up at home until I was 15½ years old.
Mary Horton (Miss),
Leamington Spa,
Warwicks.

Happy family

I ALWAYS find a great many items of interest in Spastics News, and as a mother, who has frequently been in despair over the future for my own child, I find it very encouraging to read about the spastic people who have managed to achieve success in life, be their achievements large or small. Only a mum could understand what it means to see that others, who seem to be as handicapped as my own boy, can do something worthy of writing about in your paper. I feel that Spastics News does not ever minimise the difficulties that we parents, and our children face, but on the other hand does give us the feeling that there is hope, and it is better to face the future with optimism.

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FORGET THE SUMMER — AND THINK ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The cards and gifts which send more than greetings

CHRISTMAS begins 14 months early for Maura Taylor.

For she is the Greetings Card Co-ordinator for The Spastics Society, responsible for the annual catalogue of Christmas Cards and Gifts.

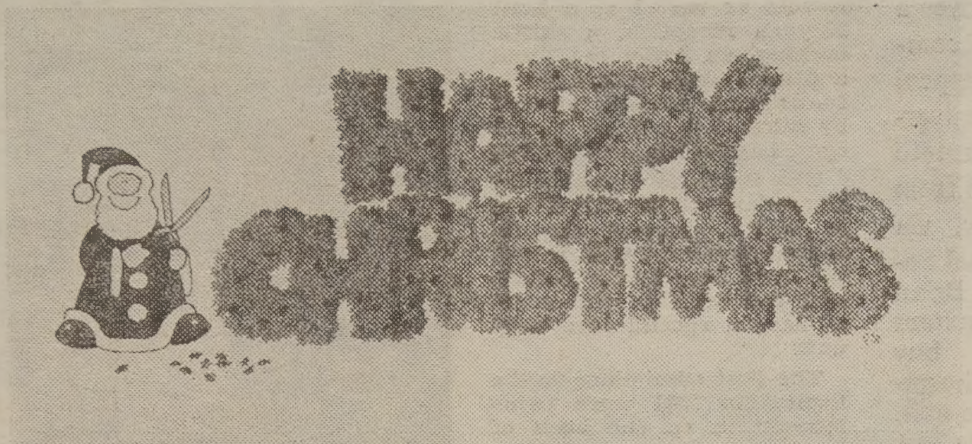
Having just seen 100,000 catalogues go out, Maura will start work next month on the Catalogue for Christmas 1983.

Contained in this year's catalogue of armchair Christmas shopping are 92 pages of cards, wrapping paper, decorations and gifts averaging around £2 to £3 in price.

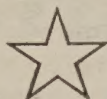
There are 21 pages of cards, some overprinted with The Spastics Society acknowledgment, followed by a range of inexpensive gifts for playroom, kitchen, office, sideboard, garage and workshop.

Of the catalogues sent out this year 60,000 will go directly to private customers, either people who have bought from the catalogue before or new customers who are known to have bought by mail order previously.

Each catalogue costs 30p to produce but the entire cost is met by the manufacturers which advertise their products through Webb Ivory, the firm which compiles the catalogue.



● "SANTA'S Greeting" is a cheerful card costing 90p for 10.



● AN elegant card in blue and gold called "Wondrous Birth." Price 95p for 10.



In return for allowing its name to be used on the front cover of the catalogue, the Society, while paying nothing towards the cost of the catalogue, receives a percentage of the profits made on orders received.

Last year, for example, 28,000 catalogues were sent out to private customers and this resulted in 12,000 orders, worth £200,000.

This means that roughly one order was received for every two catalogues sent out, which is a very high return and reflects the highly selective nature of the mailing list.

The Christmas mail order is additionally lucrative because in ordering their goods many people round up the prices to the nearest pound adding to their order what amounts to a donation to the Society.

"We operate a no risk

policy," says Maura Taylor, "which means that the supplier pays for all postage and administrative work, so if not a single item was sold then it would not cost the Society a penny, although, of course, if that did happen the supplier would not use us again next year."

Not that such a situation is likely to develop as last year the profits from the catalogue and sales to business houses amounted to £50,000.

Nevertheless, the catalogue is being monitored to see which are the best selling lines with the idea

of reducing it to a smaller more clearly defined selection.

"We are now going for some very up market items," says Maura Taylor.

From information collected so far, it is clear that by far the best selling items are cards, calendars and wrapping paper, which account for one third of the income, followed by kitchen and household gifts and children's presents.

The least popular are

posters, books and garden and plant items.

With cards it is significant that those with the Society's imprint sell three times more than the rest.

Anyone interested in doing their Christmas shopping with their feet up can obtain a copy of the 1982 catalogue from Maura Taylor by writing or phoning: "Greetings Cards, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ (tel 01-636 5020).

Through the Wall, thanks to the RAF

JUST back from a trip behind the Iron Curtain are the residents of The Spastics Society's Norwich hostel.

Their trip, which took in the notorious Berlin Wall, and a journey through Checkpoint Charlie into East Berlin, was made possible by the men of RAF Gatow in Berlin.

"They were absolutely fantastic," says Mrs Jesse Pidgeon, housekeeper at the hostel.

Freedom

Apart from allowing the eight handicapped people and their seven helpers to camp on the station, the RAF gave them freedom of the base including use of the NAAFI, the swimming pool and the cinema.

They also laid on a firefighting display and an exhibition by one of the base's Chipmunk-aircraft.

When the party, on their way to East Berlin, found they had forgotten the necessary documents, the RAF not only obtained them but put at rest the party's fear about the reliability of their temperamental mini bus by providing transport for the trip in a spanking new one.

Guide

The highlight of the trip was undoubtedly the visit to East Berlin, says Mrs Pidgeon, who used to live in Berlin when her husband was stationed there.

"We spent four hours in East Berlin and the Army kindly provided us with a guide. The conditions there are very spartan but the people are friendly and everyone smiles at you.

"We also spent a whole day looking at the notorious Berlin Wall and went to an American PX and did some American-style shopping."

The residents at the hostel are already looking forward to visiting Berlin again next year.

Wheels on loan at mobile library

IN Liverpool they have a mobile library with a difference.



● NEIL Windever, with his parents and Assistant Chief Constable J. Crawford, of the Merseyside Police, who presented two chairs to the Wheelchair Library.

The Wheelchair Library at the Child Development Centre, Alder Hey Children's Hospital has orthokinetic travel chairs for permanent loan to very severely disabled children.

The Friends of Liverpool Spastics have, since January 1981, provided 17 chairs for the library, while Liverpool Rotary Club and Merseyside Police have donated two chairs each.

Additional funds have come from the staff at Littlewoods Pools, and Birds Eye Foods and from events organised by the parents of children who have been loaned chairs.

The value of this unique library is summed up in the words of one mother whose son received one of the library chairs.

"The difference that this chair is making to my life is unbelievable, as I have to do a lot of carrying and lifting. It means that he is not being handled so much and his life is easier and so much happier."

Test your vehicles

MINIBUSES or ambulances run for voluntary organisations, which are over one year old must have had a test by January 1, 1983, under the recent Motor Vehicles (Tests) Extension Order, which applies not only to public service vehicles but also to any passenger vehicles with more than eight passenger seats.

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Workers unite in shop floor brotherhood

DESPITE the current severe recession there is still much fellow feeling among workers. Recognising the gap left as donations from major corporate bodies are effected by economic pressures, Bill Hargreaves, the Society's principal industrial liaison officer has launched a major new fund-raising initiative based on donations from workers themselves to help the handicapped.

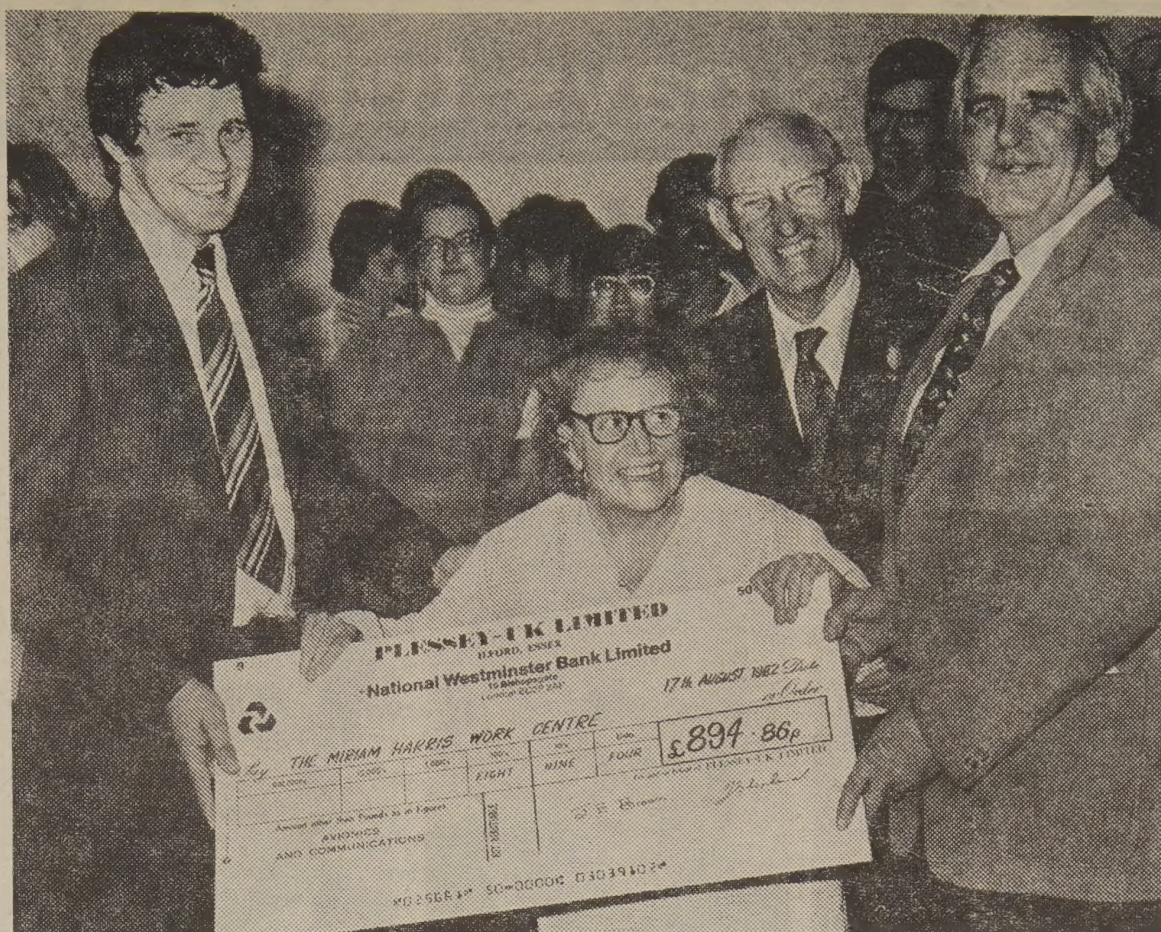
After an initial approach to the Trade Unions and managements of major companies Bill arranges to speak to, or write to employees explaining the Society's efforts to help disabled people, and at the same time asking for small monthly donations. The money given is in turn, directed towards centres run by the Society which are "adopted" by the workers of nearby companies, who are able to see the positive results of their contributions.

The "Adopt a Centre" scheme has already generated substantial contribu-

tions for some of the centres and there is still more to come.

The first formal presentation of money raised under the scheme was held at the Society's work centre at Chingford, Essex. Plessey's of Ilford have adopted the centre and before the presentation, two of the union shop stewards toured the centre with the company's Director of Personnel, John Angliss.

As Andrew Ross, the Society's Director of Marketing, said in his speech of thanks, it was encouraging that in a time of recession workers in a position to help were stepping forward to aid their disabled fellow workers, for whom the problem of unemployment is particularly bad.



JOHN Brown and Jack Shepherd, shop stewards at Plesseys of Ilford, presenting a cheque for £894.86 to Anita Godman, a staff representative on the works committee, at the Society's Miriam Harris Work Centre at Chingford, Essex. The cheque is the first donation from the workers at Plesseys to the centre, as part of the Society's new "Adopt a Centre" scheme. Also pictured is Bill Hargreaves, Principal Industrial Liaison Officer for the Society, who was responsible for the scheme.

Sir Keith to attend Open Day

The Spastics Society is holding an Open Day at its Beaumont College of Further Education, Lancaster, on Wednesday, September 29.

The Secretary of State for Education, Sir Keith Joseph, will attend the open day and will address the meeting.

Tim Yeo, the Director of The Spastics Society, and other senior staff will be present during the day to exchange views on the continuing contribution made by the Society to education, both internationally and nationally.

The Society is hoping to take the opportunity of Sir Keith's visit to impress on him the urgent need for a full health education programme in schools, as part of a central core curriculum to help reduce, in the long-term, the incidence of handicap.

NEW facilities for disabled visitors to the Derwent Valley in the Peak District provides exemption for Orange Badge holders from traffic restrictions, toilets at Ladybower Dam and Fairholmes, a reserved parking area at Fairholmes, with adjacent picnic tables, and a surfaced wheelchair route.

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FREEPOST, Birmingham B25 8BR. Tel: 021-772 5364 or Ashley Mobility (Worcester), FREEPOST, Worcester WR4 9BR. Tel: 28575.

Public anger over Court case TV licences—who pays and who views free?

PUBLIC anger was aroused by the predicament of the handicapped lady, living in a hostel, who was taken to court for refusing to buy a television licence.

Why shouldn't disabled people, including all those living in The Spastics Society's centres, be exempt from the licence fee?

Often television is the main window on the world for disabled people and for many old people an antidote to the despair of loneliness.

The law already makes some concessions for senior citizens living in special homes and to the blind. A hotel only needs one licence whether it has one television or 100.

The House of Commons has debated the extension of concessionary licences several times and revealed several anomalous situations.

A man or woman of pensionable age, who lives in an old people's home, for example, only pays 5p for a licence. Old people living elsewhere have to pay the full amount.

In The Spastics Society centres the situation varies.

Most of the adult residential centres make a point of telling their residents who have private television sets that they require an individual licence.

At Daresbury Hall, Nr Warrington, Cheshire, however, where the internal geography of the place is communal, they have 40

Ken Cooper investigates

sets all working from one communal licence. This follows a visit from an Enforcement Officer from the National TV Licences Office in Bristol who, in 1979, confirmed that one licence taken out in the name of the Warden sufficed.

In other centres, where unlike Daresbury Hall the accommodation is based on self-contained residence, each resident is regarded by the law as being an individual householder.

In the hotels on the other hand, like the society's Bedfont Hotel, Clacton and the Colwall Court Hotel, run by the Stars Organisation for Spastics only one licence suffices for all the television sets.

The law relating to television licences stems from the 1949 Wireless and Telegraphy Act which was amended by a statutory instrument in 1970.

The original concessions which mentioned only the blind specifically, were also extended to special homes for people of pensionable age and was intended originally to cater for the mentally handicapped and more seriously disadvantaged old people.

The ambiguity in the nature of the legislation has allowed its provisions to be extended.

With hotels, which require only one communal licence, it is assumed that guests staying there already have licences for their own

domestic sets and are therefore covered. Strictly speaking any permanent resident in a hotel should have an individual licence.

While there is undoubtedly widespread public support for helping old people and the disabled with paying for their licences the focus on exemption from payment does seem misguided.

The Annan Committee on the Future of Broadcasting put the case against further licence concessions in 1979, advocating on the contrary that present concessions to some old peoples homes should be phased out.

"We see no reason," says the report, "why the BBC should be expected to subsidise the social services in this way."

Some local authorities already help old and handicapped people to pay for their licences. If there is a case for providing free television viewing to old and disabled people it seems more equitable that the social services rather than the BBC should meet the cost.

There is some doubt anyway whether there is a widespread dissatisfaction among disabled people about the licence system. There have been very few complaints, at least in Spastics Society centres, although the subject is being raised at a meeting between Michael Stopford, the Society's Head of Centres and Wardens of

the centres during a meeting at the end of September.

As Mr Stopford says: "The only people who haven't complained are the disabled themselves."

When you consider that it is now possible to pay for a tv licence by instalments, the remarkable value the fee represents and the difficulties of interpreting and supervising any concessionary system, it does seem as if the licence system has been unfairly pilloried.

If, as many MP's and members of the public think there is an irrefutable case for providing free television for the old and disabled, the best solution lies not in tinkering with the licencing laws, but in passing the buck to the Welfare State where it belongs.

Outings action guide

RACE a barge on the Thames, become a goat-herd, learn to ski, take up acting, wear a gnome hat or see how they live down on the farm.

Cheer on the World Marbles champion, spectate at the World Custard Pie Championship, emulate Robin Hood, and see a well dressed in memory of a miracle.

All these activities, and many more, are ready and waiting for the pleasure and edification of handicapped people, who have never had it so good as far as leisure activities are concerned, with a steady flow of guide books to direct them to places where they are able to participate in the weird and wonderful pastimes of the British.

The latest such guide-book is "The Young Observer Action Guide," compiled by Betty James and Pat Salmon (Allen & Unwin, £1.95) which, while not specifically aimed at the disabled, lists the whereabouts of places, events and occasions accessible to them.

Eccentric

And, looking through the valuable paperback blueprint for the energetic, the adventurous, the eccentric and the thirsters after heritage, it is surprising just how many activities are open to people with handicaps.

For people who simply want to relax there are literally hundreds of holidays which make special provision for the less than able bodied.

One of the nice things about this book, however, is the incredible range of eccentric British pursuits which both able-bodied and handicapped people can enjoy.

The message of the guide is quite clear: if you have the faintest desire to spring into action, there is no handicap to stop you.

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Spastics News pays tribute to the pioneers

THE Spastics Society has come to the end of an era.

Ian Dawson-Shepherd and Alex Moira, who founded the Society 30 years ago are retiring from the Executive Council, along with William Burn, who has been a stalwart on the Council since 1959.

Mr Dawson-Shepherd and Mr Moira founded the Society in 1952 with the late Miss Jean Garwood (see story below) and the late Mr Eric Hodgson.

The departure of the old guard has been deliberately timed. Like Romulus and Remus Ian Dawson-Shepherd and Alex Moira have seen their foundation grow mightily and are making way with grace for a new generation.

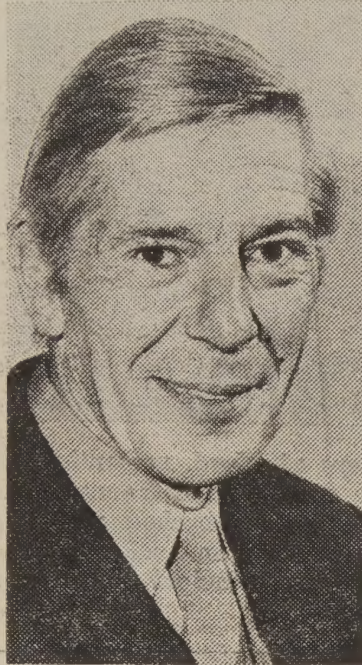
Experience

Both, however will be ensuring that their invaluable experience remains at the disposal of the Society.

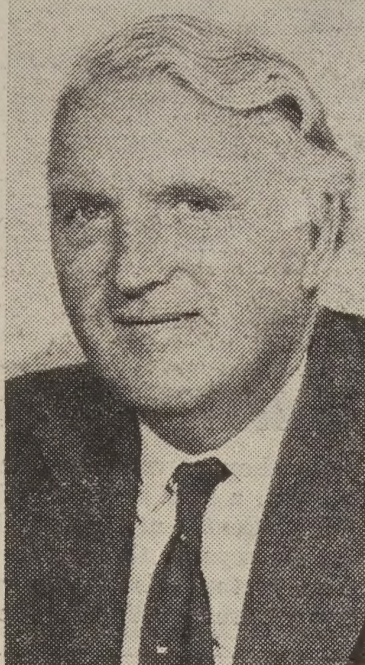
Ian Dawson-Shepherd will actually be more closely involved than ever, because he is going to write the official history of the Society.

"The Executive Council needs young people," he says. "The Society is now going well and I don't think I can add much more. I am writing the

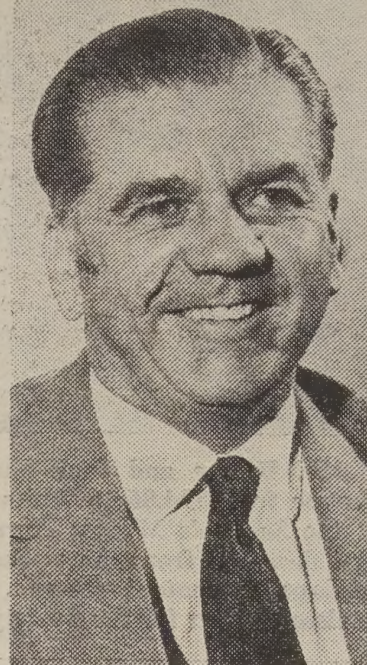
Three stand down from Executive Council—and it's the end of an era



• Alex Moira



• Ian Dawson Shepherd



• William Burn

Society's history so I want to get outside and look around.

"I am going to be even more deeply involved than I have been. I hope to be meeting a whole lot of members in order to pick up on the whole history."

Ian believes that it is vital that young people should be at the helm of an organisation which is going to become very large over the next 10 years.

"The Society began with young people but people have a habit of carrying on until they are carted away asleep. One of the great problems is how to get more young, responsible people on the Executive. People tend to look at them as founding fathers and they become grey-beards."

"The Society is now getting out of its doldrums and has a great future in

front of it. We are getting more young people at the helm. I will miss the activities but things are changing and the Executive Council is more and more involved with policy making only.

"I feel I am leaving with a lot of good people taking over."

Ian Dawson-Shepherd was the society's first chairman, Alex Moira was the

first treasurer and for many years its vice-chairman; both were stimulated into starting the Society by worry about the future of their spastic daughters. Both are retiring for similar reasons.

"The future lies with the young and knowledge of the past lies with the old," says Alex Moira.

"As I am approaching 70, I thought it was time to give the younger people a chance. You can hang on too long."

Alex Moira will be retaining his chairmanship of the two Habinteg housing associations to "help the withdrawal symptoms" but is looking forward with relish to spending more time on his great passion — gardening.

"Since I retired I have always looked upon it as my work and on everything else as spare time activities," he says.

Over the years he has converted eight acres of what used to be farmland at his home in Dorset into his own private domain of ponds, woods, meadows and gardens.

He recalls that when they started the Society they had no predetermined blueprint and points out that the growth of the organisation has reached a turning point.

"It is difficult to double the size of a £1 million a year charity, but it is very difficult if not impossible to double the size of a £20

million a year charity," he says.

The thing Alex Moira will miss most of all about working at the Society is the people.

"I will miss working with the people and particularly the staff with whom I have always had very good relationships," he says.

Mr William Burn has been a member of the Executive Council since 1959 and was chairman from 1966 to 1973. He is a former treasurer and ex-officio member of all the committees of the Society.

His work over many years in building up the Society to its current prominent position among British charities has been invaluable.

Spastics News wishes all three retiring luminaries a happy and enjoyable future.

Dressing up for Gary

BUS drivers and conductors in Consett, County Durham, recently turned up for work in fancy dress as part of their campaign to raise £500 to provide 15-year-old spastic boy Gary Chapman, whose father used to be a bus driver, with a modern form of transport, a "scooter driver." As the crews are not allowed to collect on the bus they wore their fancy dress to draw the attention of the public to the collecting tins in the bus station.



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Photo by courtesy of The Design Council

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IN THE SOCIETY'S 30th YEAR, WE RECALL A REMARKABLE WOMAN

Jean Garwood, in grateful memory

"WHEN the time comes for a comprehensive history of the facilities for disabled people, Jean Garwood might rank with Florence Nightingale and Elizabeth Fry."

Such is the verdict on one of the founders of The Spastics Society by Mr D. Funge-Smith, chairman of the Croydon, Sutton and District group of the Society, with which Jean was so closely associated.

"Jean was the nearest thing I've come across to Joyce Grenfell, playing the part of a Girl Guide mistress," says Ian Dawson Shepherd, another of the Society's co-founders. "She was a non-do-gooder do-gooder. She had been educated at Roedean, the Eton of girls' schools and it failed entirely to put its stamp upon her."

"She never wore make up, nor bothered about how she dressed. She was quiet and warm and no one would ever have guessed that she was worth half a million pounds. Her three main qualities were tremendous common sense, feminine intuition and a profound knowledge of social welfare. Money seemed to matter as little to her as it does to a nun."

Before her tragic death

in 1972 at the age of 52 from complications following a routine operation in hospital, Jean had devoted her life to the handicapped and played a dynamic role in building up both the Society and Croydon group which she hoped to found.

"She was a very dynamic person," recalls Mr Funge-Smith, "and she certainly had her head screwed on the right way. She had a force of character which meant that people followed her with enthusiasm."

Jean, who was a qualified social worker, not only fuelled the Croydon group with energy but provided it with its material fabric. In her will she left half a million pounds to The Spastics Society, nearly all of which went to the taxman!

What became St Margaret's School, one of the earliest schools for spastics children was originally a house belonging to Jean and her mother, who was also an active supporter.

Mrs A. C. Hoy, who at the age of 72 is still an active collector for the Croydon Group, and was, with Jean, one of the founders of the group, recalls how in September 1952 Jean's mother agreed

to double every pound they collected in their initial house-to-house collection.

She paid up without flinching when told that the collection had raised £850 which in 1952 was a substantial sum.

Jean's permanent memorial is Jean Garwood House, the hostel which is next door to the Spastics Work Centre at Bramley Hill in Croydon.

Originally Jean Garwood House was an imposing family mansion.

Determined to acquire the vital expansion she saw necessary to maintain the Society's growth, Jean was foiled by a dog!

In the house lived an elderly spinster with an ageing dog waiting to take up residence in a council flat where no pets were permitted.

This old lady agreed that as soon as the dog died she would sell the house to the Society. It was 10 years before the dog finally expired, and meanwhile Jean had met her tragic death.

The Croydon group bought the house and converted it into a hostel as a memorial to Jean.

In the buildings she left behind her and perhaps more important in the inspiration she gave to other people the spirit of Jean Garwood lives on.

In the wake of Nelson...

New shipmates will have equality of opportunity for sailing adventure

BRITAIN'S most famous sailor Admiral Lord Nelson was disabled and would have turned a blind eye to any suggestion that he was unfit to go to sea.

Fittingly, he gave his name to a new £2 million square rigged sailing ship which is being built and specially designed to go to sea with half its crew made up of disabled people.

The 400-ton STS Lord Nelson which will be 135 feet long will be designed from the keel upwards to make special provision for the 22 disabled crew members and enable them to play a full part in the running of the ship at sea. The main mast will be more than 100 feet tall and the sail area greater than three tennis courts.

Among the unique features included by designer Colin Mudie for the Jubilee Sailing Trust which is raising the money to build the ship are:

- Slotted metal safety tracks on deck for wheelchairs, with turntable discs at junctions to enable them to turn.
- An audio compass to allow the blind to steer.
- Signal lighting to assist the deaf.
- Power hoists and lifts for wheelchairs.
- Handrails marked with direction and location indicators for the blind.
- Square rigging, developed over centuries to allow small human forces to manipulate giant spars.
- A flat bowsprit accessible to wheelchairs.

The Spastics Society both from central funds and through the South Eastern Regional Fund has given financial support to the Jubilee Sailing Trust, towards the cost of the "Lord Nelson".

Although Horatio Nelson himself would find the look of the ship familiar, "she is not an exercise in archaism in the least," says Colin Mudie.

The hull, sails, and rigging will be of the latest modern materials.

The original idea for the Lord Nelson came from Christopher Rudd, Founder and Secretary of the Trust and a keen advocate of the idea that able bodied and disabled people should be able to work and relax together.

After submitting his idea to the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal in 1977, a subsequent grant paid for research and pilot schemes; a donation of £150,000 from the Beaverbrook Foundation enabled the trustees to start raising the rest of the £2 million needed to build the barque.

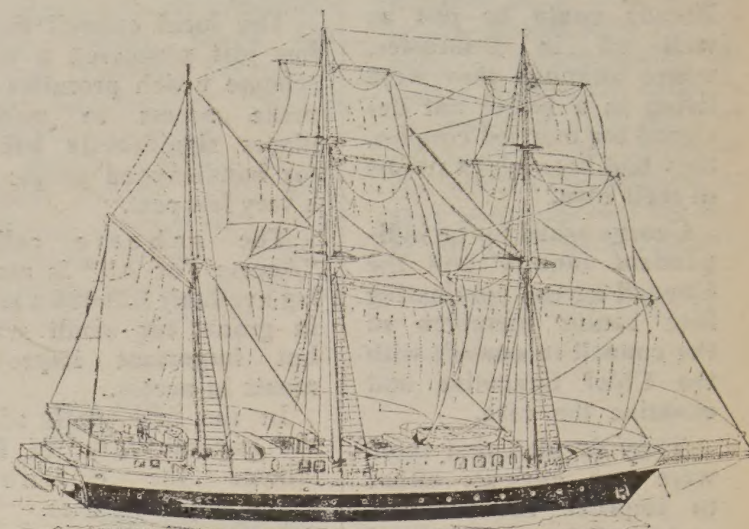
To date a total of £500,000 has been donated.

Derek Ashcroft, Vice Chairman of The Spastics Society and a keen sailor was the prime mover in obtaining support for the scheme. The South East region has sponsored two berths on the ship—one for a disabled sailor and one for a helper, at a cost of £5,000.

This donation buys for the region two places for a weeks' cruise on the Lord Nelson each year for the next 10 years.

Another "half" berth, for one disabled person is being sponsored out of the Society's central funds.

In an average year 1,250 crew members will sail in the Lord Nelson and each voyage will, in the words of the Trust, "return to society a group of people whose perception of themselves and of each other will have been fundamentally changed and will provide a growing nucleus of that integrated society



● THE 400-ton barque "Lord Nelson," designed for the Jubilee Sailing Trust. Half the crew of 50 will be disabled people.

which is the right of all disabled people."

Not everyone agrees with the practicality of this ideal nor of the wisdom of spending £2 million plus annual running costs of £250,000, to put to sea a relatively small number of 600 disabled people a year.

Mr Norman Croucher, a mountaineer with two artificial legs resigned as a trustee because of doubts about costs and objectives.

He feels that integration on the terms proposed is too artificial and fears that the cruel sea will put too great a strain on the disabled crew and may destroy morale rather than raise it.

"It is too out of the way," says Croucher. "I don't think it is enough of a stepping stone to ordinary life. I favour more natural alternatives."

The other supporters of the Trusts who include

Clare Francis, Dame Naomi James and Sir Alex Rose disagree. So convinced are they of the value of the mixed crew that the plan is to enter the Lord Nelson in the 1984 Tall Ships race.

The Trust ran a feasibility study, chartering two square rigged vessels which they put to sea with crews of mixed ability on voyages, which included cross Channel passages.

"These proved," says the Trust, "that not only did the crew members combine into a working team but that the attainments of the disabled far exceeded their own, and the Trust observers' expectations."

And there is one great advantage that the disabled have in going to sea. They are less affected by the affliction of sea sickness.

Even Nelson couldn't say that; he was sick every time he went to sea.

● JIM Gibben at the helm of "Royalist" during a pilot sailing scheme.

Obituary

Mr G. O. Williams

THE death has occurred of Mr Gwilym Williams, a past chairman of the Wales Region of The Spastics Society. John Roberts, senior regional officer, West, writes:

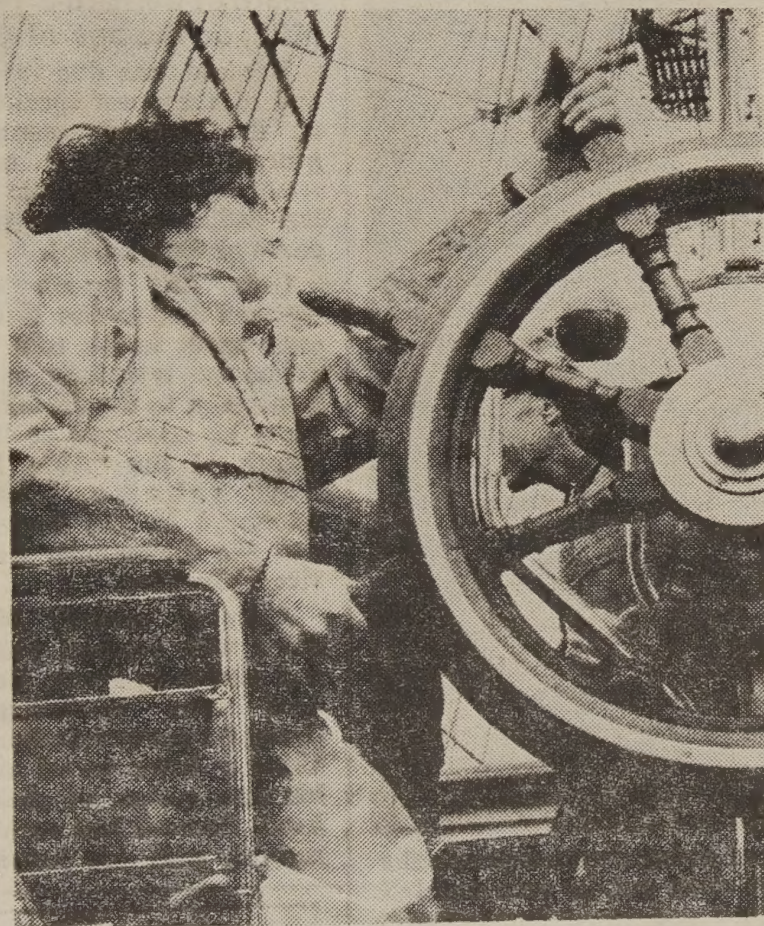
It was with great sadness that his friends heard of the death of Gwilym Williams (G.O. to all of us who knew and admired him). Gwilym, who was vice-chairman of the Wales Region from its inception, became chairman of that region in 1977, and held the office with dignity and charm until 1981.

Born in Maesteg, his father was a clergyman who influenced the young boy and the youngster idolised his father. Moving to North Wales early in life, G. O. was to see his father die whilst he was young, and when visiting the North Wales groups during his term of office, it became a regular thing to visit the churchyard at Bylchau, for G. O. to pay his respects.

A possessor of a fine voice, G. O. chose a banking career, and many have laughed at his tales of the banking world. He also told many tales of this exploits during the war, and of his term of office as a JP.

He and his wife, Clarrie (who is a member of the Executive Council of The Spastics Society), moved to Pontypool in 1955, and Gwilym was treasurer of the Monmouthshire Spastics Society from 1963 to his death. His son Paul, who is wheelchair bound also follows his passion for singing, and the two of them enjoyed nothing more than to have a lengthy conversation in Welsh, their mother tongue.

The Cwmbran work centre and its achievements bear testimony to G. O., and we will wait a long time before we see his like. He was often asked to write a biography, I fully believe that this he intended to do — now it is too late, and with his passing died a genuine raconteur.



● STEERING a square rigger from a wheelchair—Dave O'Toole on "Royalist."

Integration at school — Society's new register

TO help meet the urgent need for information about the integration of children with special needs into mainstream schools, recommended in the 1981 Education Act which comes into force on January 1, 1983, The Spastics Society is compiling a register of integration schemes.

Significant changes in the education of children with special needs are beginning to take place as more schools and education authorities are already meeting the conditions as set by the Act.

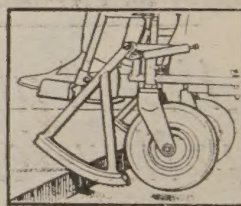
The Spastics Society has discovered a demand for information from a growing number of parents who would like their child-

rent to be educated in an integrated setting and from teachers and administrators about schemes in their area.

No such register exists at present and the Society will make the information in it widely available. It will be expanded and updated regularly and will be part of the work of the new unit established by the Society in July — the Centre for Studies on Integration in Education.

"Neither the DES nor education authorities know the true extent of integration today," said a Society spokesman. "We feel it is vital to collect this information and publicise it as widely as possible."

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SN9

Council relents on home

● Continued from Page 1

tor of Social Services still believed that George and Brenda could be just as well off in Doncaster, where although they were living in a hostel not designed for married couples, they had been given rooms of their own.

George asked for an independent inquiry and the Council agreed nominating four senior members of the council to consult with the Chief Executive and examine the case.

They decided that there were two options; either to improve the facilities and conditions at Amersal House or to support George's move to Cardiff.

After further discussion and negotiation it was finally decided to sponsor George after all and on August 20 he and his wife, who first met at the Society's Wilfred Pickles school and have been married for eight years, moved back into their dream home.

Margaret Morgan, the Controller of Social Services at The Spastics Society believes that the happy outcome was due in no small part to the friendly negotiations which took place between the Society and the Council.

The Society talked to the inquiry and pointed out that it is different for married people living in the Blue Peter flat, where they can close their own front door, to living in a small unit with other people not all of whom are married.

"If it had just been agitation they could have had an adverse reaction. It was a long drawn out and difficult situation," says Miss Morgan, "but it has ended happily for everyone."

He will run in New York

SURREY police inspector Mick Wayland is to run in the New York Marathon in October on behalf of the White Lodge Centre, Chertsey, a centre for spastic children. Last year Mick succeeded in running 50 miles across Surrey from the Kent border to the Hampshire boundary in seven hours and raised £2,000 towards an adventure playground for disabled children.

SPASTICS NEWS

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HOW ONE TOWN MAKES LIFE EASIER FOR ITS DISABLED CITIZENS

— and others could follow the example

IF your local council is not doing very much to make life easier for the disabled, tell them to go to Middlesbrough.

The local council there has just pioneered a new scheme which promises to make access to public places significantly better for handicapped people at a very low cost.

The scheme called "Access For All" is making available £20,000 a year in grants for small scale but important improvements in access.

In the first week after the announcement of the scheme the council received 10 inquiries.

A local carpet retailer wanted to ramp the steps outside his shop; the Cleveland Council for Volunteer Service is hoping to ramp the entrance to their offices and improve access to a toilet.

One of the local churches is interested in installing a ramp at the entrance while several suggestions for making pavements less like obstacle courses have been received.

Grants of up to 75 per cent with a maximum of £1,000 is being offered by Middlesbrough Council using funds made available, via the Government's inner

area programme.

The council has introduced the scheme in an attempt to keep up the momentum towards a wider awareness of the disabled, generated by the International Year of Disabled People.

Among the simple and cheap ways in which life can be made so much easier for the handicapped are:

● Ramping shallow steps which allows easier access for prams and buggies as well as wheelchairs.

● Providing handrails at the entrance.

● Marking glass doors to help the partially sighted.

● Lightweight but wide doors to assist weaker people and those wheelchair bound.

● Larger changing rooms in shops which allow people in wheelchairs to try on clothes.

Apart from money the council is also offering professional and technical advice to non-profit making organisations.

The Access For All idea grew partly out of a survey of Middlesbrough town centre of the problems of access faced by the dis-

abled. The information collected has been published in a booklet which has been sent to all local disabled organisations.

While congratulating Middlesbrough Council on its initiative Spastics News wonders why other councils are not introducing similar schemes which are cheap, simple and highly effective in improving access.

Why don't you talk to your local councillor and ask why his council is not interested in access for all?

Glenys has the drive to speak up for others



DRIVING off to speak out for the disabled is Glenys Fisher, aged 33, pictured receiving a Batricar from Mr Charles Thornley (left), landlord of the Spindlemakers Arms, Preston, paid for by the pub's customers. Also in the picture are Mrs Agnes Fisher, Glenys' mother, and Mr T. K. Parkinson, vice-chairman of the Preston and District Spastics Group.

Glenys, who cannot walk very far, joined the Preston Disabled Speakers Group, formed at the end of IDYP year

with the aim of giving disabled people the confidence to come out, be seen and talk about their problems, especially to schools.

"I joined," says Glenys, "but wasn't happy at first and didn't think it was my cup of tea. We had the help of the Preston Speakers' Club to prepare us to speak and now I am happy to go out and really enjoy the meetings—the question time keeps you on your toes."

Thanks to Mr Thornley and his regulars, Glenys no longer needs to be driven to speak in public.

Voice from sidelines

TORY, Labour, Liberal and SDP will have one thing in common when they hold their party conferences this year.

All will be able to hear coming from the sidelines the voice of the disabled, orchestrated by The Spastics Society, which has arranged a series of fringe meetings at all the party conferences.

Among the issues raised will be community care, differences in approaches to the future of mentally handicapped in long stay hospitals, the Save A Baby campaign and the standard of our maternity services.

Included in the speakers

at the various meetings are Alf Morris, Labour Party spokesman on Health, Jack Ashley, MP, who is deaf and a leading Parliamentary campaigner for the disabled, Mike Thomas, MP, and Michael Morris, MP.

The fringe meetings are as follows:

● September 21 at 1 pm, during Liberal Party Assembly at Bournemouth: "Care In The Community — Making It Work," in the Westcliff and Terrace Rooms, Savoy Hotel, Westcliff.

● September 27 at 5.15 pm, during Labour Party Conference, Blackpool: "Hospital Or Home —

What Choice For Mentally Handicapped People?" in the Opera House Circle Lounge, Winter Gardens.

● October 6 at 12.45 pm, during Conservative Party Conference at Brighton: "Healthy Babies — The Priority of Priorities," in the Shades Room, Old Ship Hotel, Kings Road, Brighton.

● October 11, at 6 pm during the SDP Conference, Cardiff: "Care In The Community — Making It Work," in the Wedgwood Suite, The Park Hotel, Park Place.

The meetings are open to everyone and all the venues are accessible to the disabled.

Sad death of campaigner

THE Spastics Society has lost a doughty champion with the death of Bernard Brett, MBE, at the age of 47.

Bernard was due to be one of the guest speakers at the Society's annual general meeting and remained active right up to the end, working for the cause of the disabled.

Only last month he featured in Spastics News once again in his role as voluntary worker and inspiration to the disabled, when he appeared at the launch of the "Able To Help" scheme, jointly sponsored by the Society and the Community Service Volunteers.

Although severely disabled with cerebral palsy and unable to speak, Bernard was particularly strong on communications. Using a letter board and his own system of shorthand, Bernard had such a rapport with his helpers

that he could carry on rapid conversations.

Bernard came to England in his twenties from his home in Belfast and became a pioneer for disabled people who wanted to make their own way in the community outside special institutions.

He founded a housing association in Colchester to provide homes for homeless people; he "spoke" at conferences and training courses by having the papers he had written read out.

An active Quaker, he worked with the Disablement Income Group and had a special affection for and affinity with children.

Bernard, who had an MA in Social Administration, was an example of how someone with severe disabilities could lead as independent a life as possible, while making a full contribution to the community. His example and personality will be missed by a lot of people.

Your Legacy

The Spastics Society provides a wide variety of care, education and welfare services.

Your legacy can enable us to give spastic people a greater chance in life.

Information concerning legacies in favour of the Society is available from Bernard Sharpe, Legacies Dept. The Spastics Society 12 Park Crescent London W1N 4EQ

Telephone 01-636 5020 Ext. 127

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY